

Dear Nikki,

I know my own weaknesses, flaws and imperfections. I have always been able to rise above the subjective moment and take a completely objective biggest-picture view of everything.

If that noble intent is what really matters the most then I know who I really am and what I really want, although I have not always been able to stay true to myself.

Even given all the imperfections and insecurities you have shared with me about yourself I still feel that you are a much better person than I am. I have genuinely felt that about you in a way that I have never felt for anyone else before. This is something that really has nothing to do with intellect or physical attributes or anything else like that. It is perhaps more than even personality or character.

In terms of a romantic connection, I have thought a lot about what makes an interaction so special and irreplaceable. Objectively, there are so many people in the world that there must be literally thousands, if not tens or even hundreds of thousands of other unique individuals out there with whom we could potentially share that sort of interaction and personal collisions.

It certainly seems that at least in the initial stages that 'first-contact' has always been so arbitrary and situational, nothing more than seemingly random chance-encounters and fortuitous greetings and meetings. While the romantic side of me totally understands why, if you were tragically widowed you would probably never get remarried, or why you have probably decided that you will only ever make the commitment to love a man with everything you have and for the rest of your life but only make such a commitment once, the analytical aspect of me is puzzled by it.

So much of life – and love is perhaps no exception – comes down to external factors like life-timing, physical-location, and other situational circumstances. Imagine two different men, both equally compelling and both capable of having the actual potential to be the 'one right man' for you, albeit each distinctively unique in his own particular way. And imagine that you had merely bumped into the first man first, developed very strong feelings for him and later fully committed to him. What if something happened to that man or what if he later on decided to leave you? Would you turn around and give the second man a chance or would you become emotionally closed-off because it hurt too much and it was too hard and painful to try again? What if you had met the second man first and never even encountered the first man? Do you see the hypothetical dilemma here?

Well, I think I figured it out. Beyond merely religious reasons I think I also know why you place such an importance on maintaining virginity. As with other forms of loyalty, devotion and commitment, I believe the answer is because it changes us, it rewires our physiology and it forces us to be or become a different person. An apt analogy would be if you heated a raw uncooked, egg it would undergo a chemical process that would permanently alter its form in a way that could never be reversed simply by cooling it back down. Likewise, falling in love is not a process that can be reversed by any sort of emotional 'undo'. For better or for worse, we are never the same person ever again. So perhaps what you are really waiting for is the right person who you actually want to change you. Someone with whom you finally want to put your whole life in that person's hands. And once you have merged with him in every possible way and he has so utterly transformed you into the woman you would have become, into his woman, then there is no going back or falling in love with another man. Whoever you end up with, you would have committed to become molded just for him. This is why the decision is so important, and why you could only do it once. It is probably also why feeling 'wanted' is such a crucial component for you.

I want to always believe that it is actually possible to find and sustain that sort of love and to stay in that kind of moment forever. Something so exhilarating, real, and alive. Deep down, I have always pictured, visualized, and conceptualized this as what I truly want to be and experience the most out of life – above and beyond all else. Just something playful and carefree, almost like a hide-and-go-seek or a sort of lost-and-found. Full of awe-inspiring wonderment and that wondrous feeling of falling, staying and basking in love. Childlike but mature, where the whole world is one's playground and love is like a recess of the mind that never has to end.

The sort of love and happiness that I have always envisioned has never really depended upon external, situational or circumstantial factors – beyond that of perhaps being besides that kind of person with whom I've always wanted to love with everything that I had. Two people could live the exact same life based upon external metrics and other objective standards (education, career, income, social economic factors, etc) yet one person could be absolutely lonely and miserable while the other person might be in love with every moment of his life. I know I would much rather be poor and struggling, but in love and living with meaning and purpose versus being wealthy but indifferent, apathetic and bored.

Ultimately, all of life boils down to being about experiences. Experiences are about emotions, moods, perceptions, feelings, and mental states. It doesn't matter how we emotionally 'get there' (there is nothing wrong with being rich and also 'in love' all at the same time) just that we end up 'getting there'.

But it seems too often we lose sight of what is really important and what truly affords us the most intense 'effective-happiness' by chasing after the wrong elements or using the wrong strategies. For example, the two short weeks of letter writing that we shared was much more memorable for me than the best vacation or trip that I ever took. If I found the girl of my dreams and I knew for sure she was the one and she felt exactly the same way about me, I would give everything, even my own life, just to spend one perfect day with her - if that was all we could have or share together. Our subjective inner worlds, and how we feel about ourselves and the ones we love, is far more profound and impactful than anything else could possibly ever be. So this is my perspective and my priority and also where I come from and what I look for in life.

You once shared with me the sentiment that you felt like you were somewhat "missing out" on life, that you often found yourself to be awkward or dull with new people and that you knew there was more and that you wanted more but you were not sure of how best to express that about yourself. I think I can understand, it must feel like living behind a glass window, where you can look, but you cannot really touch or interact, where you simultaneously fear being vulnerable and hurt and yet at the very same moment you really want and need to be vulnerable and exposed and to have that feeling that your faith is finally rewarded. In my own particular way I believe I may be able to somewhat relate and understand.

I am completely serious about wanting you, and wanting to spend the rest of my life with you, and to completely be yours, utterly, entirely, and completely, if you want me. I hope you have the courage, wisdom and heart to go after whatever truly makes you happiest in life, in whatever form it may be or whatever expression it might take on. This is certainly the sort of 'prime-directive' that I have always followed in my life, however sometimes I feel that despite my best of intentions that I have often made foolish decisions by not always being true to myself. But I have very little doubt that whomever you end up with will be the right person and the perfect person for you.

Please do not feel that I am as conceited, nor as presumptuous or pretentious as to suggest that that someone is me. I know for a fact you can certainly do a lot better, for example, someone who was more mentally perfect and less emotionally unstable. While I have always felt that regardless of whatever you may think of me, that it is the content of my message that is important, and while I never wanted anything to take away from that, at the same time the converse is also true. Regardless of the content of the message, of what I write or say, I know that it is easier to articulate certain characteristics and attributes, but something different altogether to actually possess them and to live them out. Just because I genuinely ascribe to certain ideals does not necessarily mean that is who I currently am.

Furthermore, if you ideally desire someone more experienced in relationships then that is certainly not me. The best analogy that I can think of is that I would be akin to being like the jumbo jet airline pilot that has logged a million virtual hours in the flight simulator but never even flown a single-engine Cessna in real life before.

And unlike nearly every other Asian person that I've ever known, I don't really care about academia, higher education and do not have any work or career ambitions in life. To be honest, I don't even like what I do (Information Technology) and to me it is just a paycheck. If I could get paid the same or more to do another line of work, I could probably care less what I did as a job.

The only thing I would really have to offer you is that if we were able to forge that sort of true emotional link and/or spiritual connection, then I know that probably more than any other person out there that I am capable of feeling more deeply and connecting more strongly than anyone else. And if that something was there, I would have no qualms about expressing it, whether physically, emotionally, verbally or linguistically. As long as the intensity did not overwhelm you, ("excess-within-control"), then I know that very few others could surpass my capacity for emotional depth and empathic love. That is what I've always wanted in life and what I am good at and what I have honed. I would like to believe, from an emotional and experiential perspective, that if you would be willing to get past the initial friction, inertia and frustrations, etc of my emotional flaws and quirks that deep beneath exists something very sweet and good, in a very genuine, immersive and pervasive manner. More than anything, something like this is what I want, and I do not think I would have written to you with what I have written if I did not truly feel that we could share something like this in that way.

I was also being very serious that even if we were married, I would not mind it if you experienced physical pleasure with other men. Let me elaborate on this point. Back in March/April when you wrote back to me nearly every single day, I somehow had the distinctive impression that you were answering what you thought I wanted to hear rather than being completely emotionally truthful and honest with yourself. Although I felt it was very altruistic of you to come out and say that you would not mind it if any long-distance guy that you dated saw another girl or slept with another girl, I always intuitively felt that it wasn't what you really wanted. I think you were just putting that out there because you felt it was the noble stance to take, the most noble thing to do, and you would rather yourself be hurt than to allow your love to turn into a sort of 'selfishness', so to speak. I think you maybe have forced your desire to be truly selfless and used that to help override your natural instinct of wanting someone all to yourself. Maybe I'm wrong about you in that regard, but I've always had this hunch that you were trying to predict what you thought I wanted to hear and at least somewhat tweaking and/or tailoring your answers accordingly. In any case, I know

enough about the 'human condition' and how mother nature and physical life really works than to be as naïve as to truly believe that any girl could truly be completely satisfied with being with only one man for the rest of her entire life. If I am wrong, then let me be wrong, but I would never impose any restrictions of any sort. And I would never ask anyone that I was with to do that (to impose that sort of self-imposed restriction on herself) on my behalf either. There are other reasons why I take this stance, and it is not because there is anything physically wrong with me, but it is something I would be willing to share if we got to know each other better.

I want you to know I meant everything I said in the message I sent to you back on the 18th of September. If this is not what you want, or if more pointedly I am not what you want, or someone like me is not whom you are looking for, then I would still like to finally meet you at the Poulsbohemian Coffeehouse – or the nearest coffee shop to where the Poulsbohemian Coffeehouse used to be if it no longer exists – in approximately 30 years from now on Friday, September 15, 2045 at 9:00AM local time. I promise you I'll be there this time. Even if you don't show up. At the very least I'd like to know how you did, if you ever found him, and how it all turned out for you.

If, however, you find all of this to be merely too incredulous – which, given how we started I would not blame you – I offer the following proposals to prove to you my complete authenticity. (but of course, I'm open to suggestions if you have a better idea) In essence, I would be willing and I would be able and be very happy to maintain a perfectly 'asymmetric' dynamic in which we mutually agreed that I alone took on all the 'burden' and 'risks'. Beyond just the physical and financial burdens (to quote how you described the canceled Seattle trip back in April) I would also be the one to take on any and all emotional risks.

For example, I would always come to visit you rather than the other way around. Or alternatively, if you ever wished to meet elsewhere, you would be the one to choose the time, the place and the setting. I would never impose anything on you at any time or for any reason, if you were seeing anyone else it would not be my concern and I would certainly not pry nor attempt to persuade or deter you from continuing to do so, etc. If we took trips or vacations together, I would defer to you where you would most like to visit as opposed to stringing you along to places that I felt you would probably not be too excited about (i.e. DisneyWorld, etc). I would never ask you to write to me unless you actually wanted to do so, but if you never wanted to the do letter writing thing again I would never bring it up. If we were married and you wanted to kneel down together and beside one another with your husband in the bedroom in prayer like how some Christian women/couples do, then I would do whatever you felt was best. I would even go out of my way to get a cell phone or smart phone (something I swore off long ago) if you felt that it would make it more convenient to

be able to video, talk or text, etc. And if you got bored or tired of me at any stage or for any reason, there would be no hard feelings and I would want you to feel completely safe and comfortable enough to be that transparent and so very candid.

I really wouldn't even mind if you operated on the basis of a string of contingencies. For example, whenever or wherever you wanted to start, or however slow or small the steps, if A were contingent on B happening first and B was contingent on C and so on and so forth, then we can do a conditional-chain like that. As an example, I would come to visit you in SEA versus you coming to DFW. If that happened the way you expected and you felt satisfied then if we took a trip together, I would go where you wanted to see (Japan) versus something that you might not have a natural inclination for, like DisneyWorld in Orlando, etc. And if something like such a trip went how you expected then we could move on to something else and so on and so forth.

You can hold me to everything I have ever mentioned or said in this letter and the one I sent you on the 18th. If I ever let you down on anything for any reason then you could just call the whole thing off and that will be that. In this manner you could hedge your bets and keep your options entirely open while limiting your potential exposure and/or risk.

Starting now this very moment, I want to prove to you this is not all talk. This is the very last message I will ever send you. If I lied and sent you anything else unsolicited or in any unreciprocated manner after this then you would know I wasn't being serious. You don't have to reply back or confirm one way or another. But I hope you don't mind – and I hope you can understand – given the nature of this message and its contents why I felt compelled to deliver it to you via many different methods and mediums. But again, you don't have to reply back or confirm one way or another. No matter what, I hope you really do find and sustain the happiness that you have always been seeking.

Sincerely,

Bo

Monday, September 21, 2015

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September 18 2015 8:43 PM

The sweetest, saddest and most endearing thing anyone has ever shared with me was when you told me that you had already made the decision to be celibate your whole life if you never meet that kind of person that you wanted to be with. I knew you absolutely meant it. What a bittersweet and heartbreaking decision. But one filled with such lovely high hopes.

While you've said you could live independently just fine without a husband to emotionally sustain you - and no doubt I'm sure you can - I don't think that is what you really want. But I can understand that you'd rather have nothing at all if you could not feel certain that you found that kind of strong romantic connection.

Perhaps few people deserve such a love as someone who placed such importance on finding and sustaining that sort of connection; a girl who was committed to finding and selecting the right someone for her for as long as she could remember. Something she long ago picked as always the "one best thing" to experience in life.

It is so very beautiful that you have always maintained the unshakeable feeling that there would be someone who you always wanted to be besides for the rest of your life, someone you were extremely fond of and felt was a remarkable person whom you wanted to spend quality time with and to enjoy that person's presence more than that of anyone else. It is so inspiration that you expressed being capable of feeling this sort of ineffable loyalty to this person even though you've probably never met him and you felt that possibly never would.

I don't know that anyone has ever shared such unique perspectives with me. I grew fonder of you with every re-reading of your letters. I think I finally realized why. I think I was too selfishly obsessed with wanting the thrill and exhilaration of exchanging heated, intimate and passionately engrossing letters back and forth to have truly appreciated what you shared. I'm ashamed to admit but perhaps the

deepest reason why I canceled back in April was I felt if you couldn't give me what I wanted (thrill of letter writing) I would intentionally attempt in whatever way I could to deprive you from what I thought you had truly wanted as well. (the potential interaction that might have developed from such an in-person visitation)

You once shared with me that you wanted to live a life that you haven't seen before, not one like a plot to a book or movie that you had already knew the ending to. I've always felt the same way, but coming from a different perspective. Romantic love is the one and only thing that I have yet to experience in life. Believe it or not, I've never done anything, never been in any relationship, never went out on a date, never had sex, never kissed a girl nor even held hands with anyone in that way. In a sense I guess I ended up saving the best for last, even though it was not intentional nor planned.

Although it was not my intent, I have ended up being alone for the first three decades of my life. I think I shared with you I felt that there was really only about 15 to 20 years left of my life until I essentially got basically old and none of it even matters anymore. I never wanted to live to 85 years or older, I always felt that if I could just live a happy life full of love and wonder then even something as short as 50 years would have been more than enough.

I think the word "dating" is a misnomer. I also never liked its connotation nor denotation. The same way I never liked the word "goals". Every girl seems to want a guy who has goals and ambitions in life and who is "going somewhere" but to me it has always been completely arbitrary and meaningless. All backwards. The only thing I've ever wanted is certain distinctive emotional experiences and I felt that everything else including education, career, money, possessions, etc were merely just means to an end to assist in the creation of such inner worlds and so were the ambitions and goals applied to them. Not that these weren't important, but they most certainly were never the most important. No one ever asked nor talked about the most important things. But I digress. To me 'dating' is a reduction in uncertainty, that is all it is. A process of knowing for sure, one way or another.

If I were ever to come across something real like that, more than just commitment it would also be a sort of identification, realization and awakening. To the sort of life that I've always wanted to live; something I've been waiting for my whole life. The feeling that I've purposefully stood on the sidelines my entire life and now I'm

finally ready to jump in... Brimming with excitement and the heart-pounding sensation and the exhilaration of knowing... it would feel surreal almost. In actuality, I think if the real prospect were to emerge and I found and grabbed hold of that then my entire life would instantly and permanently change (certainly from an inner emotional perspective) for the rest of my life and I would never look back nor ever be the same again. I would compare it to being like a sort of metamorphosis, much like a caterpillar transforming into a butterfly. The feeling that all of it is finally coming together in my life and making sense for the very first time. To feel fully activated, like life finally begins for the very first time. And my previous obsession with searching would have shifted gears towards sustaining that love.

To me, all I want the most in life is to be able to slip into a special emotional and experiential realm of existence – that sort of alive inner world – and to be able to feel so strongly about such a bond, understanding or connection. To experience that immersive alive essence of love and existence and to be in that pervasive moment and to stay in that mood forever – for the rest of my life.

Like you, I've searched for a soulmate type of connection my entire life. But my search perhaps was a little bit more analytical than yours. 'Soulmate' is actually probably a bit of a misnomer as well. I use the two terms interchangeably but I really mean 'twinsoul', the concept that there is only ever one other person for everyone in existence. At any early age I was inspired by initiatives such as SETI (Search for extraterrestrial intelligence), and other attempts at contacting alien life like the Pioneer plaques, Voyager Golden Records, the "Wow signal" incident, the broadcast of the Arecibo message, and even movies like Contact (1997 American film), etc. I drew on their inspiration ingenuity in attempts at crafting my very own 'first contact' message and in attempts of finding ways to find that needle in a haystack and searching and listening to any signs of 'her' out there somewhere.

Obviously I was never successful, but throughout the years when I think back to all the things I have tried, some of them now so ridiculous and lame, I realized I put in every effort that I could and I gave it my all. At one time, a premise that I had, for example, I felt that if I was aware of the concept of a 'twinsoul' and if one did exist, and if she existed then she would also have been aware of the same concept. And she too would have figured out that if I existed then I would be aware that she was aware that I was aware of the concept. Then I would try to guess how she would go about finding me, and I would find her that way, and I knew that if she thought the

same, she would anticipate my moves and think one step ahead. So I operated on the premise that not being able to actually contact her, assuming she exists and was in the exact same position that I was, what would be the best way to find each other? What sort of common ground could we use to contact each other without first knowing anything about each other? Suffice it to say, I tried it all but I never found her. I attributed to either twinsouls don't really exist, or perhaps she lived and died thousands of years before my time, or was yet to even have been born, etc.

Today I believe that one's 'twinsoul' is actually the other half of one's gender. Regardless of whether or not we are male or female, both genders possess traces of the opposite gender. Males have feminine aspects and well as females have some masculine aspects. We are not completely male or female. Our 'twinsoul' is simply the other half of us, our suppressed gender that is dominated by our primary gender. As far as soulmates, I believe it really just comes down to being about 'very high level of personality compatibility thresholds', coupled with the requisite luck of favorable chance encounters and the necessary component of quality time in which to form and forge the bonds of commitment.

With regards to God, I believe God is simply the "absolute totality of all existence". So in a sense we are all God, or relatives-within-the-absolute 'sub-existing' portions and aspect expressions of him. We are like self-similar fragments of God being aware of its much larger self, but all the while we are still relatives-within-the-one-absolute, and all of us are absolutely needed (every element of the totality of existence no matter how small or trivial) in order for the one absolute to be completeness that it is. I believe my current views and perspectives of God, love, Twinsouls and Soulmates are all harmonious and consistent with one another and in full alignment with analytical and scientific views of reality. But I think I'm finally done searching. If I bump into her serendipitously, then wonderful, if not, then I don't mind being alone.

I'm all yours, utterly and completely, if you want me. In whatever manner or way, and however slow or fast, little or a lot, fleeting or permanent... Some people are willing to give themselves for their country, others for their company, and still others might surrender for God or some noble cause; but for me I knew that I would only ever do it for another person. I want to give up all attempts at control of my life – even down to the very last dormant traces and vestigial remnants – and just devote myself completely to one person with absolute conviction. I've never found anything or anyone worthy of that until now. This is not a hypothetical proposition

or a dumb DisneyWorld offer or invite, this is all of me, everything and forever – or for as long as you still want me.

If you want me, there would be nothing that I wouldn't be willing to do for you. For example, I'd move to Seattle, go to church with you, even listen to soul music and eat fried chicken and watermelon. I'd stand with you under the Aurora Borealis, smell the Cherry blossoms together, visit the Galápagos Islands, and take amazing pictures of Orca and other animals and wildlife. I would pick up on your interests and hobbies and assimilate them as if they were my own as they naturally grow on me, and through you I would invariably gain a much fuller and more vivid and meaningful understanding, appreciation and experience in life. Even if doing the exact same thing or visiting the exact same places, I would gain a newfound perspective. I want you and I want this with you and want to want to want all of this and more... something nurturing, protective, comforting... I know with you I would always be alive and feel alive... just to be able to share all of life's multifaceted experiences with you, the good and the bad, ups and downs, all enjoyable and memorable in their own way... I would defer to you as to how many children you want and when – and even something like being a stay at home father for a period of time would not be out of the question. Even though I never cared about things like this, I would respect how hard you worked for your education and career and would never ask that you make any sacrifices on that behalf. I know that if this is something that you want, that with you, you would help me be or become the sort of person that I could never have been on my own despite all my good intentions, and compel me towards the sort of new, different and interesting experiences that I would have not stumbled upon by myself. I would never impose or even imply any artificial or externally imposed restriction or any other limitation on your life, and I would mean that absolutely. I would never see myself being that sort of jealous or possessive husband that deters or prevents his wife from developing meaningful friendships or rapport with other men, or to nurture her friendships and to spend quality time with her family and girlfriends, etc. I would respect your space, however much freedom you needed, whenever you needed it, and without question or exception. Even if you wanted to go as far as experience physical intimacy with someone else I would not get in the way if that truly made you happiest or added to the full palate of your enjoyment of this one and only life that you had to live. I would never rush you into anything you didn't want to do. You once told me that it made for disappointing experiences when you had to hold back so far from the line just to keep the other person from recklessly barging over it, regardless of what that applied to, as it can apply to so many other things in life, I would do whatever I could so that you could experience the very opposite of that sort of disappointment. Beyond love, or even romance, I would think we could truly

help each other live more meaningful and fuller lives in the pursuit of true happiness. Just to start something wonderful, in whatever forms it takes on; and to extend and expand that for the rest of our lives.